We are asking the council to consider changing the current regulations on striped bass daily trip limits for the otter trawl fishery. In the port of Shinnecock, there are a number of gill net fishermen and through the years we have watched them be able to fill multiple sets of tags in a single trip while we are limited to just 21 fish per trip. We are not looking to take anything away from anyone, in this business we all understand that we have to make money when we can but what we are asking is that you consider allowing otter trawl fisherman to retain, if caught, more than the current 21 fish per trip. This is not a targeted species for us but on many occasions there have been times when well over the 21 fish have been caught and then must be thrown back, which seems wasteful, and then is just a repeat of this process daily, where if we were allowed to retain more than the 21 fish per day there would be less fish being thrown back overboard dead or almost dead. By allowing otter trawl fisherman to retain more than the current 21 fish per day would be better for the conservation of the species overall. We are just asking that you take this request under consideration. Thank you for your time.

1) Steve Ball, F/V Terri Sue
2) Brian Jansen, F/V Dorothy M
3) Mike Hill, #240
4) Mary A. Jansen
5) James Kane, F/V Mary Anne
6) John Bergsea, F/V Mary Elizabeth
7) Stevie Johnson, F/V Easy Ryder
8) Michael Barch, F/V Windsong
9) Scott Boyes, F/V Patriot
10) Perry Traillo, F/V Patriot
11) Edward Jordan, F/V Salty Dog
12) Del White

Petition Presented to
MRAC Council
March 6, 2018